ベルセルク

41

三浦建太郎 KENTARO MIURA

BERSERK 41

BY

KENTARO MIURA

三浦建太郎

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BERSERK

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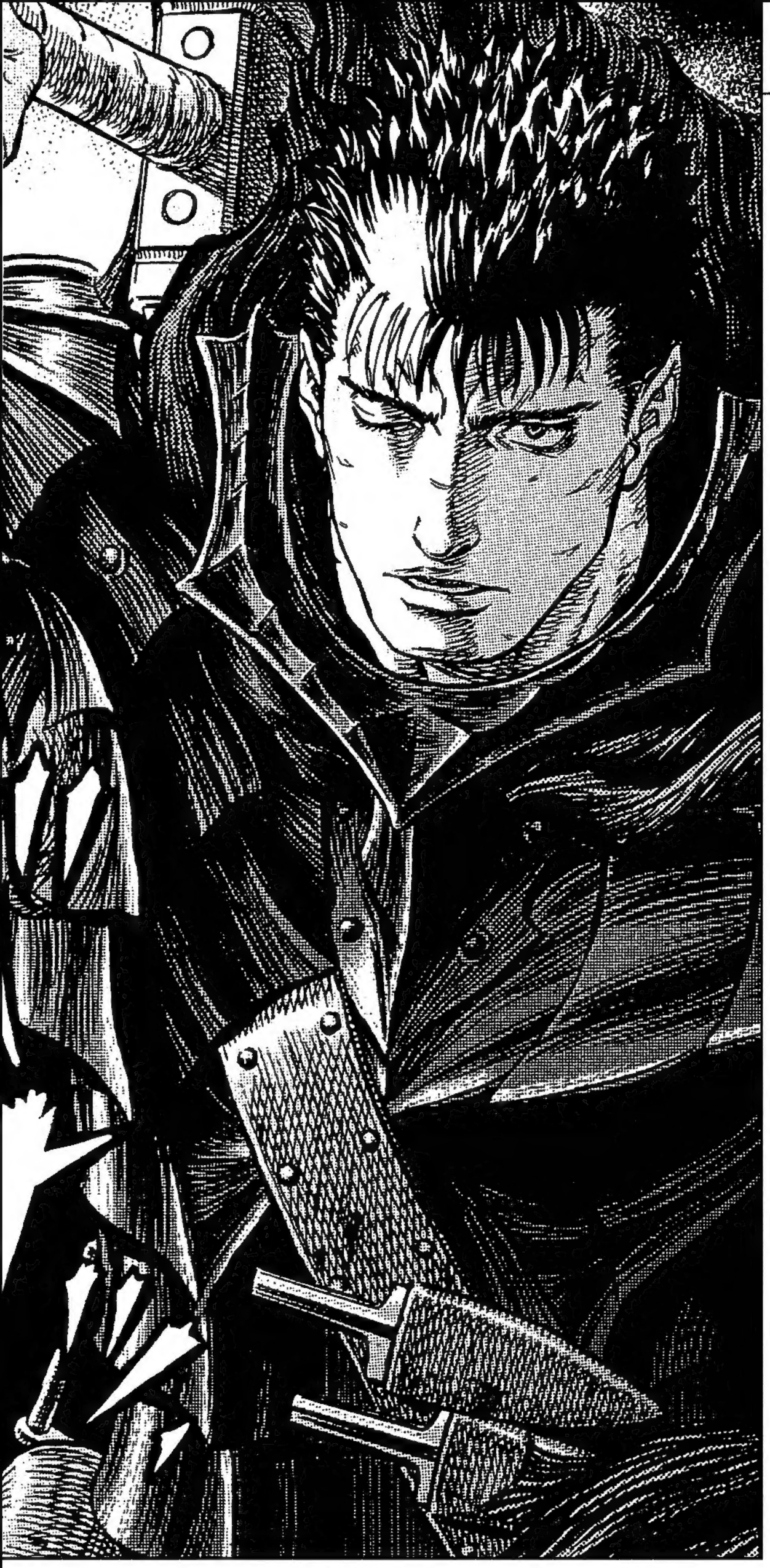
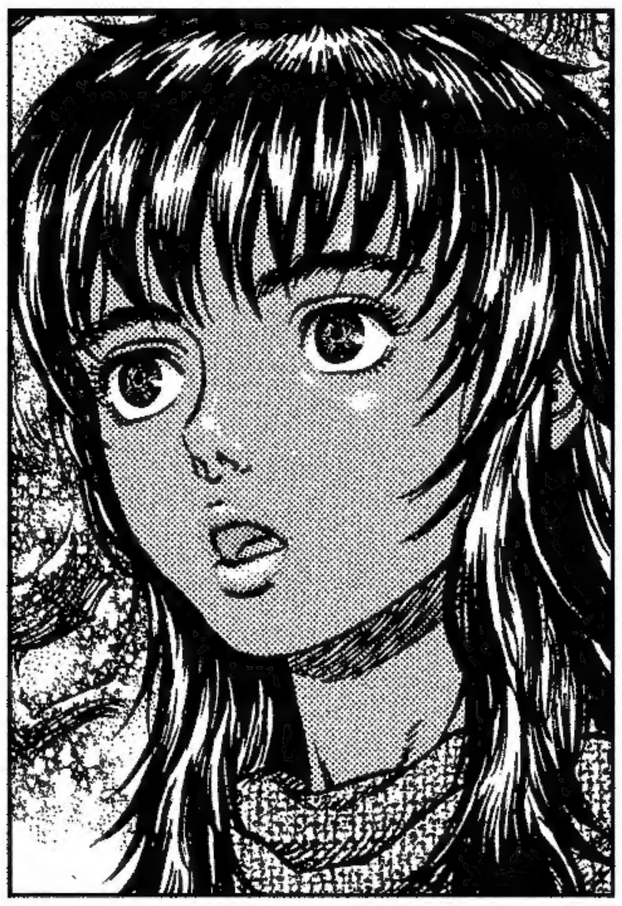


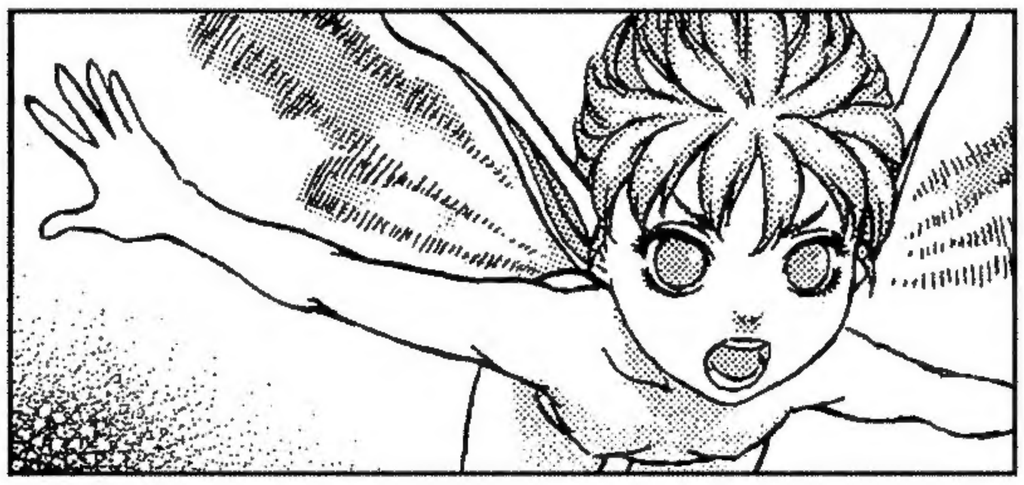
ガッツ *Guts*

The main character of the story, the Black Swordsman. He exists in the Interstice, wears the Berserker Armor, and his soul is constantly torn between protecting Casca and challenging Griffith. That struggle is nothing short of sublime.



キャスカ *Casca*

Former unit commander of the Band of the Hawk, her experience in the Eclipse left her mentally regressed. Her mind was restored via a ritual using the Corridor of Dreams, which belongs to Danann, the ruler of Elf Island.



パック *Puck*

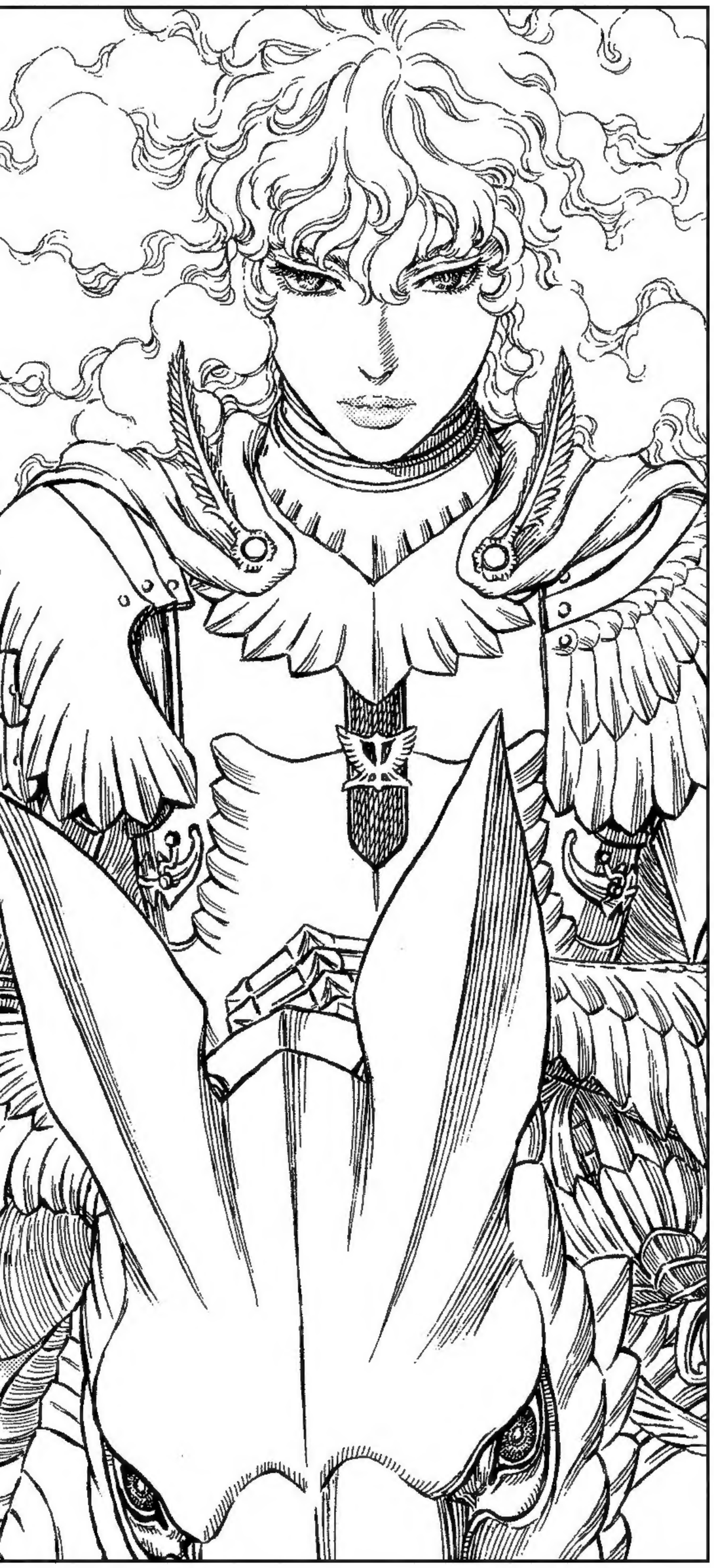
An elf who's long been with Guts on his journeys. His dust has the power to heal wounds. He confirmed that he's a wind spirit, and he also changes into the secondary character Chestnut Puck.

イシドロ *Isidro*

Dreams of being the "ultimate swordsman," but his actual talent, not up to snuff, repeatedly endangers him. Nevertheless, the boy endeavors toward his dream. He is currently equipped with a fetish granted the protection of fire elementals.

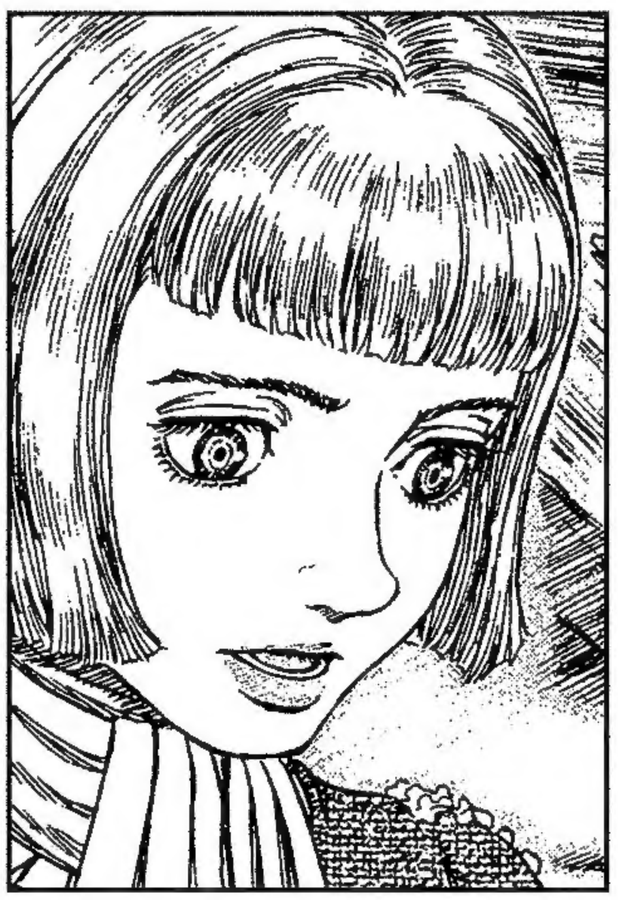
シールケ *Schierke*

Disciple of Flora, witch of the Spirit Tree Mansion. She supports Guts and the others through her use of magic; however, among her spells are some beyond her mastery, which occasionally place her in great peril as she tries to aid her allies. She has a stilted side to her personality.



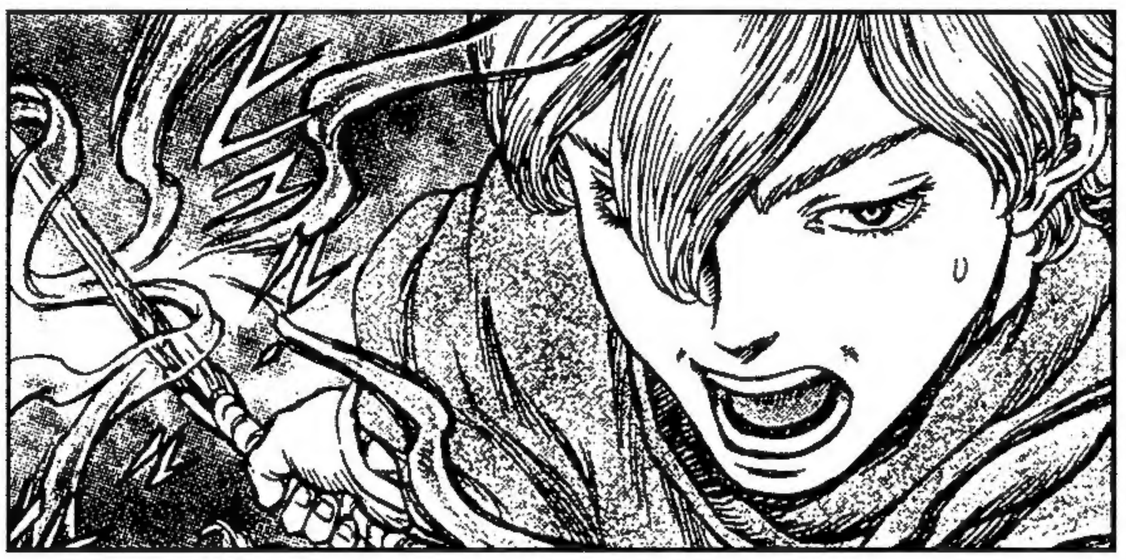
グリフィス *Griffith*

Through the Eclipse of the Crimson Behelit, he was reborn as Femto of the Godhand. Later he was incarnated in the Imitation Eclipse catalyzed by the Egg-Shaped Apostle, thus returning to the Physical World, in which he became the "Absolute," without equal. He leads the reborn Band of the Hawk.



ファルネーゼ *Farnese*

Former commander of the Holy See's Holy Iron Chain Knights, and daughter of the Vandimion family, one of influential status and wealth in the religious sphere. She seeks to learn from Guts her own means of survival and about the reality of the world.

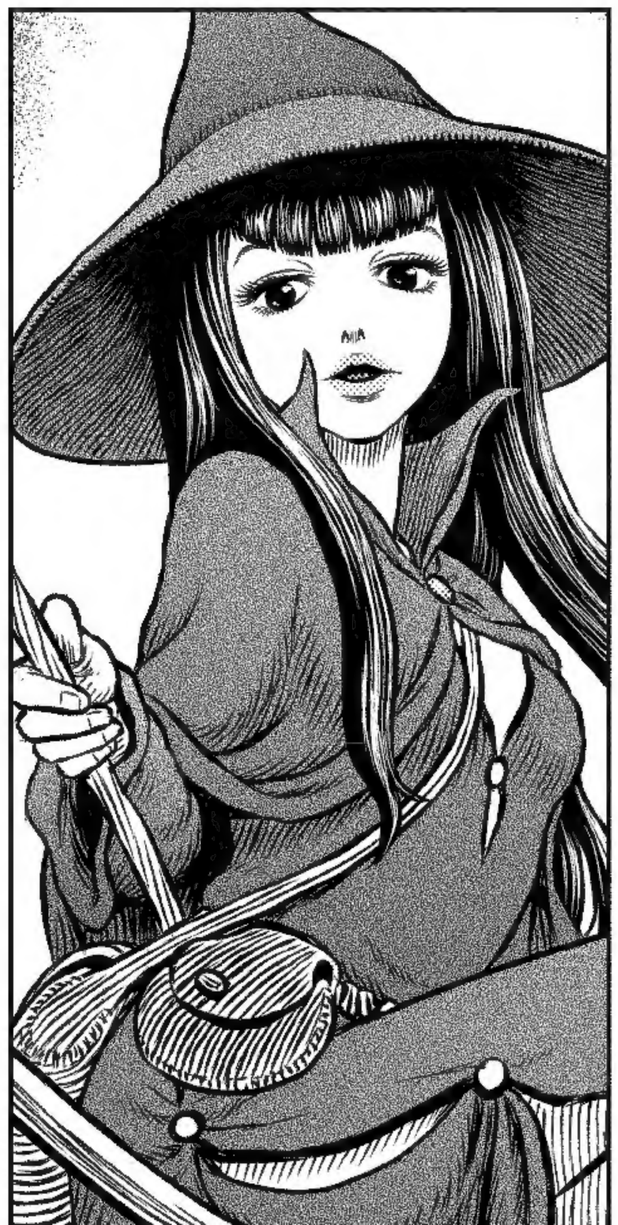


セルピコ *Serpico*

Attendant of Farnese and actually her brother. However, Farnese is not aware of the blood relationship. He is skilled in fighting and is currently clad in a fetish granted the protection of wind elementals.

ダナン *Danann*

The ruler of Elfhelm's elves, spoken of in legend as the Flower Storm Monarch. She can perform the Corridor of Dreams ritual, which is a means of restoring someone's mind.



モルダ *Morda*

An Elfhelm witch. Her abilities are excellent, but she has an extreme side, as is seen in her casual attitude toward taboos. Unlike her mild-mannered compatriots, Morda has a keen interest in the outside world.

Guts' party reach their destination of Elf Island hoping to restore Casca's mind. By way of the ritual use of the Flower Storm Monarch Danann's Corridor of Dreams, Schierke and Farnese dive into a world deep within Casca's psyche and finally awaken her from her long nightmare. Then, when the time for the reunion comes, the sight of Guts makes Casca cry out in repulsion . . . ?!

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幻造世界〈ファンタジア〉篇／妖精島の章

帝国の黎明

THE DAWN OF AN EMPIRE

...THE OGRES, TROLLS, AND OTHER LEGENDARY BEASTS ON THE PLAINS WEST OF FALCONIA.

THE BAND OF THE HAWK'S LANCERS HAVE NEARLY EXTERMI-NATED...

HERE IS MY MILITARY REPORT.

THE MINES TO THE NORTH ARE INFESTED WITH GOBLINS, WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH SWIFTLY.

FURTHERMORE, THE FOREST AND RIVER REGIONS REMAIN UNTOUCHED AND WILL LIKELY REQUIRE CONSTANT VIGILANCE.

REGARDING THE JÖTNAR IN THE EAST, PREVIOUSLY OUR BIGGEST THREAT, AS I'M SURE EACH OF YOU IS ALREADY AWARE...

...THEY WERE WIPED OUT BY THE NEW ROYAL ARMY...

...WITH OUR OWN BAND OF THE HAWK AT ITS CORE.

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

THIS MEANS THE RECOVERY OF OUR DOMAIN HAS FINALLY BEGUN.

MAGNIFI-CENT.

...IN THE ARDUOUS STRUGGLE TO COME.

THIS VICTORY IS NO MORE THAN THE FIRST ACT...

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, THE RECOVERY OF OUR DOMAIN AND THE RECLAMATION OF HUMAN LIVING SPACE...

...ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

CERTAIN-LY...

NONE OF US OBJECT.

MEANWHILE, IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF IMMIGRANTS FROM VARIOUS OTHER REGIONS, WAGES FOR MANY ARE LOW AND CRIME IS NOTICEABLY ON THE RISE.

THE CITIZENS OF OLD WINDHAM-- THE FIRST SETTLERS-- ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOODS BASED LARGELY ON THEIR TRADE GUILDS FROM THE OLD CAPITAL, WHERE PEACE AND QUIET ARE THE NORM.

HEAD OF THE CASTLE GUARD AND MILITARY POLICE, SIR OWEN. IF YOU WOULD REPORT ON THE STATUS OF CAPITAL SECURITY.

ON TO THE NEXT PENDING ITEM.

WE CAN'T AFFORD A HERETIC CONFLICT WITHIN THE CAPITAL DURING THESE TROUBLED TIMES!

AT THIS POINT, EVEN THE ***KUSHAN*** ARE FAR MORE RELIABLE.

IF NEGLECTED, THESE TENSIONS COULD ERUPT.

IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC DISORDER BECOMING MORE APPARENT IN THE TEMPORARY REFUGEE DISTRICT, THERE ARE MANY HERETICAL SECTS EVEN AMONGST THE HOLY SEE'S ADHERENTS.

BUT SEEING THE HAWK... SIR GRIFFITH, LIKE THAT.

IF THEY COULD EVEN ONCE SEE THE SOUL ASCENSION CEREMONY FOR THEMSELVES...

WITH SO MANY PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS SUDDENLY GATHERED IN ONE PLACE, OF COURSE THERE WILL BE FRICTION.

...THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT SLIGHT DIFFERENCES IN THE INTERPRETATION OF DOCTRINE ARE INSIGNIFICANT.

TRULY...

...SEEING IS BELIEVING.

CERTAINLY.

WE CANNOT DENY SAID RITUAL HELPS ALLEVIATE THE PEOPLE'S DISCONTENT.

THE PARTICU-LARS CAN WAIT.

A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN ORPHANAGE... WHAT'S THIS...?

NEXT, WE HAVE A RELIEF MEASURE FOR ORPHANS BY THE STATE.

IT WILL MEAN ADDING TO THE MILITARY'S BURDEN ONCE AGAIN...BUT WHAT CHOICE IS THERE?

ARE THERE ANY IMMEDIATE COUNTERMEASURES, BESIDES INCREASING MILITARY POLICE PRESENCE?

BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO CONTINUE NEGLECTING THE DECLINE OF THE CITY'S PUBLIC ORDER...

THAT ONE IS...

...MINE...

...TH-

AND WE COULDN'T RECOVER BEFORE THE EMERGENCE OF THESE CURRENT HARDSHIPS. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD IT...

DUE TO OUR RECENT WAR WITH THE KUSHAN, OUR DOMESTIC ECONOMY FELL INTO A DEPRESSION.

BUT AS YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT AND TREASURER, I MUST SAY THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CURRENTLY HAVE SUCH FUNDS.

WE, YOUR SUBJECTS, ALL RESPECT YOUR BENEVOLENCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE CHILDREN.

IT IS MOST FITTING FOR THE FUTURE MOTHER OF OUR KINGDOM.

YOUR ROYAL HIGH-NESS.

...

SLUMP しゅん

OH...

I SEE...

WE SHOULD DO IT.

!

THE BUDGET MUST FIRST BE CAREFULLY ALLOCATED TO COPE WITH CURRENT PROBLEMS...

BUT THINGS HAVE AN ORDER OF PRIORITY.

BUT SIR GRIFFITH, THE COSTS INVOLVED...

WHY NOT ALLOCATE A PORTION OF THE LOOT TAKEN FROM THE GIANTS?

"COPING" IS NOT ENOUGH.

THAT IS A SLOW PATH TO RUIN.

...THE ONLY PATH FORWARD IS TO PROSPER.

IN ORDER FOR US TO SURVIVE...

THIS WOULD INCLUDE CULTIVATING A NATIONAL SENSE OF BELONGING, SOLIDARITY, AND MORALITY, IN ADDITION TO TEACHING READING, WRITING, AND A RANGE OF OTHER SUBJECTS.

ORPHANS ALONE *AREN'T ENOUGH.* THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PLAY A PART IN THE EDUCATION OF ALL CHILDREN UNTIL AGE EIGHT... NO, AGE TEN.

B-BUT, TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE... WOULDN'T THAT BE DANGEROUS?

WORST CASE, IF IT WERE TO RESULT IN A MASSIVE UPRISING...

IF COMMONERS GROW ARROGANT, WE COULD VERY WELL DESCEND INTO MOB RULE. AND CRACKS MIGHT FORM IN THE CLASS SYSTEM...

IF IT'S ONLY HALF THE DAY, AND WE PROVIDE A DAILY MEAL, THAT SHOULD BE A BOON FOR THE NEEDY MASSES.

TH-THAT SOUNDS LIKE UTTER NONSENSE... THOUGH THEY ARE BUT CHILDREN, THEIR LABOR IS INDISPENSIBLE TO THEIR PARENTS...

CLAP パチ.

CLAP パチ.

...WE SHOULD NOT JUST SIT BY AND GROW WEAK.

TROUBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD ARE A CHRONIC NATIONAL DISEASE.

IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THAT SAME ILLNESS...

WE SHOULD ADVANCE TOWARDS GLORY, EVEN IF THE PATH IS PAINFUL.

...OUR CURRENT STANDING ARMY OF BOTH MERCENARIES AND SOLDIERS SERVING UNDER THE PEERAGE WILL NEVER SUFFICE. WE'RE CERTAIN TO NEED THE POWER OF THE CITIZENRY... A LARGE-SCALE ARMY ***OF THE PEOPLE***.

IN FIVE OR TEN YEARS, IF WE'RE TO SURVIVE AND ACHIEVE PROSPERITY IN THIS NEW WORLD...

CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING, AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT, LOGISTICS... ANYONE WITH THE POTENTIAL TO EXCEL SHOULD STUDY DILIGENTLY IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT AND HELP LEAD US TO PROSPERITY.

AND TO FUND THIS VASTLY EXPENSIVE ENDEAVOR, THE PEOPLE MUST PROSPER BY ANY MEANS AVAILABLE.

THE PEOPLE'S STRENGTH IS THE NATION'S STRENGTH... TRUE.

SO, EDUCATING THE CHILDREN BECOMES A MAJOR STRATEGY TOWARD ACHIEVING THAT GOAL.

I HAVE ANOTHER SUGGESTION, WHICH TIES IN WITH THE EARLIER MATTER OF LOCAL PUBLIC ORDER DETERIORATING.

BUT IF ALL WE DO IS SPEND, IT WILL BLEED THE GOVERNMENT DRY. WE'LL HAVE TO IMPOSE NEW TAXES...

IF WE CAN RECAPTURE THE NORTHERN SILVER AND COPPER MINES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MINT MANY COINS...

...AND THE ECONOMY IS STRAINED ENOUGH ALREADY.

HNNNN... BUT, ***FUNDING*** IT...

SHOULDN'T WE DIP INTO THE TREASURY FOR THIS, EVEN IF IT MEANS BENDING SOME RULES?

IF WE CONTINUE TO ISOLATE THE REFUGEES IN ONE DISTRICT, DISCRIMINATION AND PERSECUTION ARE SURE TO BECOME THE NORM. WE SHOULD ACT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.

IF THEY SEEK RELIEF FROM THIS KINGDOM, THEY MUST PROVE THEY ARE OF GREATER BENEFIT TO IT THAN ITS OWN CITIZENS. WE MUST INSTILL IN THEM THE DUTY AND AFFORD THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

MEAN-ING...

...WHAT, EXACTLY?

WHY NOT INCORPORATE THE REFUGEES INTO THE ARMY?

YOU MEAN... AS WE'VE DONE WITH THE KUSHAN.

AHA.

WELL...

I'M SURE THEY WILL MAKE EXCELLENT SOLDIERS.

WE HAVE SEEN POSITIVE RESULTS FROM ABSORBING THE KUSHAN. WE PARTAKE OF THE SAME FOOD AND EXPOSE OURSELVES TO THE SAME THREATS. THOSE EXPERIENCES CREATE STRONG BONDS AMONGST PEOPLE.

WE WILL HAVE THEM LAY THE ***FOUNDATION*** TO GENERATE THOSE FUNDS.

BUT IF WE HIRE MORE TROOPS, IT WILL REQUIRE STILL MORE FUNDS...

WITH THOSE BASES AND ROADS AS CORNERSTONES, WE WILL BUILD TOWNS, CITIES, A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK-- A CULTURAL SPHERE FOR ALL HUMANITY.

IN ADDITION TO GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE, NEW RECRUITS WILL BE EXPECTED AS COMBAT ENGINEERS TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN ROADS AND TO CONSTRUCT STRONGHOLDS AND FORTS IN RECAPTURED TERRITORY.

USING THE ROADS TO SWIFTLY DISPATCH LARGE-SCALE FORCES WHEN THE NEED ARISES SHOULD PROVE MORE EFFICIENT. AND WE CAN KEEP COSTS DOWN DURING PEACETIME.

AS A MEANS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, TOO, WE WILL BUILD GRAND WALLS ALONG THE EXPANDING ROYAL BORDER, WITH A CORDON FORMED BY THE SCATTERED BASES RATHER THAN ONE LARGE, PERMANENTLY STATIONED FORCE.

IN THAT CASE.

I SEE, YES...

...MHM.

AREN'T THESE TERMS A GOOD ARRANGEMENT FOR LABOR AND REWARD?

MILITARY SERVICE LASTS TEN YEARS. THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR TIME CAN BE GRANTED CITIZENSHIP FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES, OR RESIDENCE WHEREVER THEY WISH IN THE KINGDOM.

OUR MIDLAND IS PROBABLY THE ONLY FUNCTIONING NATION LEFT ON THE CONTINENT.

OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE CURRENTLY AT A STANDSTILL. CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES EVERYWHERE ARE ISOLATED AND OVERRUN BY LEGENDARY BEASTS.

BUT ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT IT, ONE COULD SAY WE'VE OBTAINED A BLANK AND BOUNDLESS MAP.

WE'RE AMIDST A STRANGE AND MENACING WORLD THAT THREATENS TO DESTROY US IF WE TAKE ONE FALSE STEP.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO HESITATE TO FILL IN THAT MAP.

TO SURVIVE, WE WILL EXPAND AND INVADE.

...FORMED A GREAT EMPIRE ACROSS THE ENTIRE CONTINENT, WITH THIS LAND AT ITS CENTER.

IT IS SAID THAT IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE RENOWNED EMPEROR GAISERIC...

HUMANITY'S REALM.

SO, LET US SHOW WHAT WE TOO CAN ESTABLISH.

A SECOND EMPIRE.

WHAT A GRAND VISION, WHILE OUR KINGDOM FACES AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT...

A SECOND EMPIRE...

MHM, WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE. WE MUST SCRAPE TOGETHER THE FUNDS, NO MATTER WHAT.

STILL...

....
....

IT'S A SILVER LINING THAT LOANS TO OTHER COUNTRIES WERE EFFECTIVELY NULLIFIED.

I WILL ASK THE HOLY SEE FOR SUPPORT.

I WILL CHECK IN WITH SOME PROMINENT FIRMS.

MINISTER FOSS?

HMHM...

CHAK
ガチャ

CHAK
ガチャ

CHAK
ガチャ

NOW THEY SEEM LIKE WHATEVER POSSESSED THEM HAS GONE...

THEY USED TO DO LITTLE BUT SCHEME TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

A VISION...

SIR?

...IN THAT CONTEXT, I MYSELF USED TO BE THEIR RINGLEADER OF SORTS...

YES, SIR...

WELL...

...ONE MUST HAVE A SUBLIME VISION.

TO LEAD A NATION AND ITS PEOPLE...

...DAZZLING VISION.

ALL OF US...

...ARE ENTRANCED BY THAT MAN'S...

エイ！

I SWIPED SOME DRIED MEAT FROM THE KITCHEN!

AWWWK

OH!

COME HERE...

THE COUNCIL'S ENDED.

H--

HEY!

!

LORD GRIF-FITH!

LORD GR--

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE.

NO, IT WAS A VERY WORTH-WHILE SUGGES-TION.

...I FELT LIKE I WAS INTRUDING WITH MY IDEA.

...THAT IS... BACK THERE...

HIGHNESS, IT'S IMPROPER TO RUN SO. YOU'LL SLIP AND FALL!

...THE ORPHANS ARE SURE TO SUPPORT THE KINGDOM ONCE THEY'RE INDEPENDENT.

IF THE KINGDOM CAN BE A GOOD PARENT TO ORPHANS...

MOTHER OF THE KINGDOM, INDEED.

LIKE A MOTHER LOOKING AFTER A HOME.

OH, MY.

...SO IT CAN BE A HOME SURE TO SOOTHE THE CHILDREN AFTER ALL THEIR HARDSHIPS.

...ALL OVER THE KINGDOM AND PLANT THEM AT THE ORPHAN-AGE...

I WANT TO TAKE THE FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN GATHERED FROM...

...THE *FATHER* OF THE KINGDOM?

...WOULD THAT MAKE HIS FUTURE ROYAL MAJESTY...

IN THAT CASE...

IF YOU'D LIKE, WE COULD HAVE TEA TOGETHER IN MY CHAMBERS... I WOULD LOVE TO SOOTHE YOUR WEARINESS FROM THIS LATEST CAMPAIGN.

LORD GRIFFITH...

DO YOU HAVE PLANS AFTER THIS?

UM...

PLEASE, SPEND THE TIME AT YOUR LEISURE.

THERE'S NOTHING ON THE MILITARY SCHEDULE FOR THIS AFTERNOON.

STOP THAT!

HEY!

KWAW!?

PLUCK

ブチ

PLUCK

ブチ

ブチ!?

WEREN'T YOU BY LORD GRIFFITH'S SIDE THE ENTIRE CAMPAIGN?!

THEY HAVEN'T SPENT TIME TOGETHER IN A WHILE! DON'T GET IN THE WAY!

QUIT IT!

I COULD DO WITH SOME SOOTHING TOO!

PUFF

プー!

...

...

I'M TAKING A LONG RIDE!

DON'T COME WITH ME!

AH.

HEY.

WHERE TO...?

OH, MAN.

GUESS I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO NEVER GETS A DAY OFF.

...YEAH, AS IF.

...SURE ENOUGH.

IT'S TONIGHT, THEN...

幻造世界〈ファンタジア〉篇／妖精島の章

障壁

BARRIER

IT'S FUN TO DO A LADY'S HAIR THIS WAY, ALL LOVELY.

I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I ENJOY IT.

DON'T YOU MIND!

SHNK シャキ

AND YOU MAY CALL ME "DANANN."

...

SHNK シャキ

IT'S A NICE BREAK FROM THE USUAL HOUSEWORK, TOO.

THERE.

IS THAT ABOUT RIGHT?

SNIP

SNIP

SNIP-PETY SNIP

UH...

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

FOR DOING THIS PERSONALLY...

AND ALSO...

...A SWORD.

THE DRESS SUITED YOU QUITE WELL, SO IT'S A BIT OF A SHAME...

...BUT I PREPARED SOME "FOREST SENTINEL" CLOTHES THAT ARE EASY TO MOVE IN, AS YOU WISHED.

GREEEEE

WHARRL...

SURE ENOUGH, THIS FEELS MORE RIGHT FOR ME.

THIS MAKES FOR A VERY DIFFERENT IMPRESSION.

IT'S EMBARRASS-ING.

DON'T STARE LIKE THAT.

..ISIDRO, PUCK.

YOU REALLY TOOK GOOD CARE OF ME BACK THEN.

YES. IT'S FAINT, BUT I REMEM-BER.

MMHM!

?!

CUT IT OUT, IT'S ANCIENT HISTORY.

THE CASCA WE KNEW WAS LIKE A BRATTY HANDFUL OF A BABY.

YEAH, BUT IT'S SUCH A TOTAL CHANGE.

Y'LOOK LIKE A LADY PIRATE. COOL!

TAKES ME BACK. FEELS LIKE THE DISTANT PAST, NOW. BY ABOUT TWENTY YEARS, IN FACT.

I REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN, TO RESCUE YOU...

...I HAD TO PLAY TAG WITH HERETICS AND FARNY'S BUNCH.

SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT...

S--

I'D LIKE TO THANK THEM, IF I EVER SEE THEM AGAIN.

I WONDER IF THEY'RE STILL OKAY...

THOSE GIRLS WHO TOOK ME IN AT THAT HOLY GROUND...

THAT'S WILD, ISIDRO! AND I HAVE NO IDEA!

SO PATRON-IZIN'.

REFER TO VOL. 21.

IF I HADN'T REELED HER IN WITH MY DAREDEVIL DIVE, CASCA WOULD A BEEN BURNT TO A CRISP.

HEE

HEE

HEE

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT WHOLE AFFAIR...

NO... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

I'M ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU, MISS FARNESE.

...!

JUST "FARNESE" IS FINE.

THE WAY I DID WITH MY MOTHER AND SISTERS WHEN I WAS A CHILD...

...I ALWAYS FELT A SENSE OF RELIEF.

WHENEVER I CLUNG TO YOU...

BUT...

...A MOTHER AND OLDER SISTER TO ME.

I THINK DURING THE JOURNEY, YOU REALLY WERE BOTH...

I'M THE ONE...

...WHO'S INCAPABLE OF ANYTHING...

BUT...

...HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN...?

IT WAS PRACTICALLY FARNESE WHO DID ALL THE LOOKING AFTER...THE TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOU.

I WAS SIMPLY DOING MY PART...

IT WAS A LOTTA HARD WORK, JOURNEYIN' WHILE PROTECTIN' AN UNWORTHY STUDENT AND A BIG BABY.

YOU THERE. DON'T SPOIL THIS.

HOW TOUCH-ING.

IM-PRINTIN', HUH?

IS IT WORTH CRYIN'? OVER?

SHE'S NOT USED TO PRAISE.

OH, BUT THAT'S...

CALL HER "YOUR LADYSHIP."

YOU NEEDN'T CALL ME "MISS."

THANK YOU TOO, MISS SCHIERKE. YOU SAVED ME FROM SO MANY CRISES.

AND A WOMAN AT THAT. ...SO, HOW'RE YOUR SKILLS?

SO YOU SERIOUSLY WERE A SWORD FIGHTER, HUH, CASCA.

...WE'LL SEE.

I THINK THEY'RE PRETTY RUSTY...

THE SWORD FEELS A TAD HEAVY.

ズズ...

ZHMM

CHAK

CHAK

COME ON OUT!

THEN I HAVE JUST THE RIGHT TRAINING PARTNERS STORED AWAY...

FLUTTER

CHAK

SO THIS IS WHAT BECOMES OF LEGENDARY SEA WARRIORS.

THAT ARMOR LOOKS OLD. IS IT ANTIQUE?

I HEARDA THEM. THEY'RE PIRATES!

VIKINS GOT NO STYLE.

THESE ARE ARMOR AND WEAPONS I SWIPED FROM VISITORS TO THE ISLAND LONG AGO. WHAT WERE THEY CALLED...? AH YES, "VIKINS"? I MAGICKED THEM INTO GOLEMS.

...AND NOT HOLD BACK.

THEN I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR KIND OFFER...

GOOD LUCK!

CHAK

...FOR EVERYTHING, YOUR MAJ... LADY DANANN.

THANK YOU...

THEIR INSIDES ARE FILLED WITH STRAW, SO YOU CAN CUT OR STAB THEM. THEIR WEAPONS HAVE BEEN ENCHANTED NOT TO INJURE OR KILL.

VNN

CLANNNG

KONNNG

HYNN

HYNN

SLASH

LOP

OHHH!

SHE'S GOOD.

MY!

VNN

CHFF

YANK

CHKT

WOBBLE

グラァ..

WHOK

CHAK

ガチャ

KEERRN

SLASH

KTUNK

ガァキィィン

HHH...

YOU WERE GREAT!

NOT BAD, CASCA! THAT BLEW ME AWAY!

I'M SURPRISED TOO, HONESTLY.

OLD HABITS MUST DIE HARD. MY BODY REACTED AUTOMATICALLY.

HER SKILLS ARE BETTER THAN MINE.

SHE'S THE REAL THING.

HOW SKILLED.

HM.

SHE'S USED TO FIGHTING ARMORED OPPONENTS.

OH WOW!

WHA?!

YOU MEAN SHE'S *THAT* STRONG!?

INTENSE!

YEAH, BUT WITH WOODEN SWORDS, BECAUSE MY ACCURACY IS DOWN.

THANKS! BIG SIS CASCA!

LEARNED TO BOW YOUR HEAD, HAVE YOU, PADAWAN?

I GUESS IT'S MY FATE TO BE "BIG SIS."

THAT'S FINE BY ME...

IT'D BE NO PROBLEM, WITH YOU!

GOOD IT IS TO LEARN FROM OTHER STYLES, SOMETIMES.

HEY! BE MY TRAINING PARTNER! GUTS IS STRONG, BUT HE'S SO HUGE, IT MAKES IT HARD TO PICTURE AN OPPONENT WITH A NORMAL-SIZED BODY!

LET'S DO THIS!

GO FOR IT!

SERPICO, STAY AND ASSIST CASCA WITH HER TRAINING.

UM... FAR--

...SHE'S FULLY IN A MAGE MINDSET.

SO MANGY HERE.

YES, LET'S.

COME. LET US GO TO OUR TRAINING AS WELL.

カ KLAK

ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T SPEAK TO HER...?

UH...

...THAT'LL DO FOR NOW.

IF SHE'S DOING WELL WITH THE REST OF YOU...

NOT YET.

KONK

コオオン...

...THE PROBLEM IS HER OWN.

FROM HERE...

...CASCA CAN NOW AT LEAST DECIDE FOR HERSELF.

NO MATTER HOW DEEP THE WOUNDS...

OR WILL SHE WAIT FOR TIME AND AFFINITY TO HEAL HER?

WILL SHE FACE HIM?

YES, BUT...

AND SHE HAS BOTH OF YOU TO THANK.

HEY, Y'KNOW.

...

I WONDER IF SHE BURDENED HERSELF UNNECESSARILY IN THE CORRIDOR OF DREAMS.

?

AIDIN' THE ENEMY.

FARNESE.

...TELL HER AFTER ALL.

I'LL...

...GO AND...

...I WAS THE ONE.

...WHEN YOU WERE AFRAID!!..

IT WAS ME WHO PUT YOUR HEART IN...

...AS I WATCHED YOU GO.

...YOU'D SEE HIM...

I SAID I WAS SURE...

HOWEVER...

GUTS.

...AND LISTEN.

JUST STAY THERE...

...WHAT TO TALK ABOUT...

THEN AGAIN...

...IT'S LIKE... I WAS DREAMING I WAS SOMEONE ELSE...IT'S HAZY.

THE THINGS DURING OUR JOURNEY...

OKAY. FINE. YOU BE MY OPPONENT.

OF COURSE, I'M ALREADY AWARE OF THAT.

YOU'VE GOT GOOD COMPAN-IONS.

IT NEVER SEEMED POSSIBLE BACK IN THOSE DAYS.

HMHM...

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE *YOU* TOOK ON AN APPRENTICE.

KRRRN

ORAHH!

ISIDRO HAS REALLY TAKEN TO YOU.

SHONK

YES...

IT REMINDS ME OF JUDEAU...

BUT HIS SMOOTH TWO-SWORD STYLE...

...
...

THE WAY HE'S CONTRARY IS A LOT LIKE YOU.

GOT-CHA!

ALTHOUGH HIS TEACHER WAS A LITTLE LESS APPROACHABLE.

BTHUMP

?!

HAHH...

HAHH...

...UGH!

CASS...

FLINCH

THUD

AH-

AHH-

-AHGU

HH!

HOWEVER...

...THEY STILL CAN'T SEE ONE ANOTHER.

幻造世界〈ファンタジア〉篇／妖精島の章

桜の園

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

DRINK THAT SLOWLY.

BE CALM.

THANK YOU... I PUT ON ANOTHER SHAMEFUL DISPLAY...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

FOR NOW, YOU MUSTN'T PUSH YOURSELF.

YOU ONLY JUST AWOKE FROM A LONG, LONG NIGHTMARE.

OR ELSE, YOU'LL ...!

CASCA, DON'T!

GGH...

...IT'S LIKE I'VE SUDDENLY BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO THAT PLACE...

I SEE IT ALL OVER AGAIN...!

...WHEN I TRY TO TOUCH ON THE PAST...

I CAN'T HANDLE IT...

A TERRIFYING SHADOW GETS IN THE WAY...

HIS FACE...

HIS VOICE...

WHFF

SWAY

CASCA!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, I JUST MADE HER SLEEP.

...
...
...

YES, BUT...

I KNOW YOU'RE CONCERNED, BUT ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS BURN SOME INCENSE AND LET HER SLEEP PEACEFULLY.

YOU HAVE A TASK AT HAND, DO YOU NOT?

NOW, YOU TWO GO TRAIN.

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

...ALL RIGHT.

TUG

ヴァ..

SHE RELIES ON YOU SO MUCH.

LIKE A SECURITY BLANKET?

...NEVER.

...NO SUCH THING...

I'M...

FOR YOUR RICH MAGE LIFE THAT'S ABOUT TO BEGIN.

HERE, ALTHOUGH IT'S ONE OF MY OLD THINGS.

AH, YES.

OH!

HERE THEY ARE.

LADY FARNESE, FINALLY...

UM... THIS HAT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT FOR ME.

YOU'LL GET USED TO IT. IT LOOKS QUITE GOOD ON YOU.

IT'S ALL FLASHY, ON PLAIN OL' YOU.

...IT'S TOO ELEGANT! I FEEL PRESSURED!

ALTHOUGH IT *IS* NICE AND LIGHT...

BUT! A BEGINNER LIKE ME, IN THIS GETUP KNITTED FROM CHERRY BLOS-SOMS...

IT'S A BOON FROM DANANN, SO YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT.

...NEW-COMERS.

THERE YOU ARE...

DANANN FILLED ME IN ON THE SITUATION.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I APOLOGIZE THAT WE'RE LATE ON OUR FIRST DAY...

YOU WANT ME TO SHOW YOU SPELLS...?

IT-IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE I STARTED LEARNING MAGIC ...!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP TAKING OFF YOUR HAT.

TR-- TRUE ABILITIES, YOU SAID ...?!

SUCH AS, HOW MUCH YOU'VE LEARNED OF SPELLS AND RITUALS.

FIRST, I WANT TO KNOW YOUR TRUE ABILITIES.

DON'T EMBARRASS SCHIERKE, APPRENTICE #1!

DO YOUR BEST.

HERE YOU GO.

M-MISTRESS...

DEMONSTRATE FOR ME.

OKAY.

I STILL ONLY KNOW THE FORMATION OF THE FOUR...

EHHH?!

I'LL VOUCH FOR THAT.

YOUR FORMATION OF THE FOUR REALLY DID FULLY PROTECT EVERYONE.

DON'T WOR-RY.

HOLD ON! ?!

SHE'S NOT DRAWING A MAGIC CIRCLE ?!

THERE.

OKAY! HERE GOES...

0-

READY!

IT'LL JUST GLOW A LITTLE DIMLY, AT THE MOST...

NO WAY.

THINK SHE CAN DO THE FORMATION OF THE FOUR?

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH FOLKS OUTSIDE THE ISLAND.

AND BECOMING A MAGE AS AN ADULT, IN THE FIRST PLACE.

NOT KNOWING ABOUT MAGIC CIRCLES... SHE'S A NOVICE, RIGHT? AND SHE'S GOT NO WAND.

FWOOSH

OHH.

LOOK HOW VIVID IT IS!

PRET-TY!

H-HUGE!

UMMM. SHE FOUND HERSELF PLACED IN UNIQUE CIRCUM-STANCES...

W-WOW! IT TOOK ME *THREE* YEARS BEFORE I COULD DO IT.

Y-YES, SIR. ABOUT THREE MONTHS, MAYBE...

YOU SAY IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE YOU TOOK UP MAGIC, BUT HOW LONG ***HAS*** IT ACTUALLY BEEN?

FARNESE.

SHE HAD AN AMAZIN'LY OUTSTAND-IN' MISTRESS. ♡

WHAT IS UP WITH YOUR COMPANION?

IT USUALLY TAKES A YEAR...

AND AS AN ADULT ...?!

THE FORMATION OF THE FOUR IN THREE MONTHS?!

WAIT, ISN'T IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ADULTS WITH NO PRIOR TRAINING TO USE MAGIC...?

LADY FARNESE... THIS IS COMPLI-CATED...

WHEW

HMMM

THEN...

...I WILL...

...SUM-MON A SPIRIT...

!

AND NOW, ON TO SCHIERKE.

GOOD JOB! HAD ME NERVOUS!

HHH...

CAN I ASK YOU TO CAST SOME SPELL?

YES, SIR.

OH?

A SPIRIT, IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?

AND AREN'T DARK SPIRITS... DANGEROUS?

DO YOU SENSE IT?

NO...

I WILL CALL A SPIRIT...

...OF DARKNESS FROM THAT TREE HOLLOW.

AGAIN...

A SUMMONING WITH NO MAGIC CIRCLE ...!

...YEEP!

?!

ZHMM

A HOLLOW BLACK-NESS.

...I AM A NAMELESS SHADOW.

ZHMM

ZHMM

ZHMM

ZHMM

I SHALL GRANT THE GAMBOLING GIRL'S REQUEST...

...IN EXCHANGE FOR A BOUNTY OF THE LAND.

ヌウゥ LOOM～...

HUH ...?!

WAIT!

WHAT ?!

WHOOOA!

BLMMM

IT'S DARK.

I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING.

BLUP

BLUP

BLUP

HUH?

WAIT.

STAY AWAY!

YEEE...!

AUGH-HHH!

EEEEEK!

DUH!

FWUMP

CATCH

SSSSSSS

AH!

MY APPLE ...?

UNHH...

お

ホHO ホHO ホHO

TREMBLE WITH FEAR! ♡

お OHHHHH

お

CLAP パチ

CLAP パチ

CLAP パチ

SHE'S PRETTY GOOD.

OH YEAH! ♡

SUMMONING A SPIRIT WITHOUT EVEN USING A MAGIC CIRCLE...!

AND THAT WAS A SPIRIT OF DARKNESS, YEAH? WHAT WAS SUCH A DANGEROUS THING DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?

I'M SORRY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

Y-YEAH.

H-- HEY SCHIERKE, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU?!

BUT MY APPLE...

WHEN WE FACED DANGER ON OUR JOURNEY, THERE WAS NO TIME TO ENGRAVE DETAILED ICONS OR RUNES, SO I MADE DO USING THIS METHOD.

SHE'S GOT COMBAT EXPERI-ENCE.

I MADE SURE TO HAVE A CORRESPONDING LINK IN MY SUBCONSCIOUS.

MAGIC CIRCLES SIMPLY HELP GUIDE YOU IN THAT.

DANGER IS UNAVOIDABLE WITH POWERFUL SPIRITS, BUT WE'VE BEEN RESCUED BY THEM MANY TIMES. I ALSO ONCE BORROWED THE POWER OF A SPIRIT OF DARKNESS, AND SO...

AS FOR SPELLS, I HAD TO BORROW THE POWER OF WHATEVER SPIRITS WERE CONCEALED IN THAT PLACE, SO PERHAPS I'VE DEVELOPED A ***KNACK*** FOR LOCATING THEM.

BLIND-FOLDED TAG...

IT WOULD BE HAPPY IF YOU OFFERED IT AN APPLE OR SOMETHING, AND MAYBE PLAYED TAG WITH IT.

A SHUT-IN, HUH?

BUT ***THAT*** LITTLE SPIRIT IS NO DANGEROUS BEING. IT SEEMS IT'S ALWAYS WATCHED WITH ENVY FROM THAT HOLLOW AS YOU'VE TRAINED HERE.

...FOR THIS VILLAGE'S INHABITANTS, SO ACCUSTOMED TO PEACE.

NICELY DONE.

HO! HO! HO!

LOOKS LIKE YOU VISITORS WILL PROVE TO BE A GOOD MOTIVATION...

NOW, I MUST OFFER YOU SOMETHING IN TURN.

LET ME SEE...

...IN THAT CASE, GREAT GURU, I HAVE A REQUEST...

SUCH AS?

UM...

EVERYONE, LEARN WELL FROM THIS APPROACH TO MAGIC THAT'S BEEN PUT TO THE TEST IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

YES, SIR!

A CAREGIVER WITCH. HUH? THAT'S SO YOU.

FARNESE...

WOULD YOU MIND TEACHING ME HEALING MAGIC?

IT'S SAFE TO SAY THE MAKING OF MEDICINES IS THE ORIGINAL DUTY OF MAGES.

...MHM.

...ESPECIALLY WAYS TO HEAL THE MIND...

LET'S WORK HARD TOGETHER, FOR CASCA'S SAKE TOO!

OH.

AND HELP ME WITH THE CLEANING SOMETIMES.

ADD "MAID" TO THE LIST.

DANANN.

WHEN IT COMES TO THAT, I'LL LEND A HELPING HAND.

AND WHEN IT COMES TO HEALING THE MIND, I KNOW JUST THE PERSON.

RIGHT HERE. ♡

...BUT WITH THE DAIMONS OF A DEEPER DOMAIN?

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN COMMUNING, NOT WITH NATIVE NATURE SPIRITS...

NOW THEN, SCHIERKE.

Y-- YES, SIR?

YOU SHOULD ACCEPT, SCHIERKE!

DAIMONS...

WOWWW... AREN'T YOU USUALLY TAUGHT THAT WHEN YOU BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED MAGE GURU?!

DAIMONS ?!

HEROES... AND EVEN SOME WHO WERE MAGIC USERS.

NOT ALL DAIMONS ARE ASTRAL WORLD BEINGS. SOME WERE ONCE LIVING *HUMANS*...

...IN YOUR SHARED DREAM IS ONE OF THEM.

MY OLD FRIEND WHO AIDED YOU...

!

HM!

B--

BY ALL MEANS!

I GLADLY ACCEPT!

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

WELCOME ONCE AGAIN, SCHIERKE.

TH-THANK YOU!

YAY!

YAY!

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD!

AND YOU TOO, FOR AN OUTSIDER... AND AN ADULT, AT THAT!

M-MUCH OBLIGED!

VNN

HEHH

HEHH

...!

WHAT YOU SEE AT THE END OF THE JOURNEY...

...WHAT'M I SUPPOSED TO DO?

...NECESSARILY JUST A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT.

...IT ISN'T...

幻造世界〈ファンタジア〉篇／妖精島の章

渓谷

THE RAVINE

IT'S YOU...

KEEERN

KEEERN

AS WE ARE LED BY CAUSALITY.

...YOU AND YOUR WEIGHTY WAY OF TALKING.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I MADE IT TO THIS ISLAND WITHOUT LOSING ANY MORE PIECES.

LOOKS LIKE I DIDN'T NEED IT AFTER ALL.

SO...

...HOW ABOUT IT?

A WHILE BACK ON THAT MOONLIT BEACH...

...YOU GAVE ME THAT GRACIOUS WARNING.

THAT WAS LUCK.

THANKS.

ALTHOUGH THE TRIP WAS A LITTLE ROUGH.

CAUSALITY HAS YET TO CONVERGE.

BUT DON'T RELAX YOUR GUARD.

!

...YOUR MAJESTY.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

...HEY! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED--

...ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT YOU GO BY NOW?

NO, IS "SKULL KNIGHT"...

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY FATHER BROUGHT ME ALONG FOR SEVERAL AUDIENCES. NOW I FIND MYSELF IN A GOVERNING ROLE FOR THE VILLAGE.

I RECALL YOUR FACE. YOU'RE VIDD'S SON?

MY NAME IS GEDFRING.

"MAJESTY"...?

THAT CLEVER YOUNGSTER HAS COME FAR IN THE WORLD.

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

I THANK YOU.

...

JUST HOW OLD *ARE* YOU?

NO-NO... THAT QUESTION'S MEANINGLESS, FOR ONE...

...WHOSE FLOW OF TIME DIFFERS.

LIKE IT OR NOT, EH?

IS THAT HOW IT IS...?

HE'S SORT OF A HERALD OF MISFOR-TUNE.

YEAH, LIKE IT OR NOT.

I SEE YOU AND SIR KNIGHT ARE ALREADY ACQUAINTED.

WHO'S HANARR?

A DWARVEN CRAFTSMAN, SKILLED WITH HIS HANDS.

...SIR KNIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU SAY...

HOW ABOUT WE GO ALONG WITH THE BLACK SWORDSMAN AND PAY A VISIT TO HANARR?

...WHAT-EVER HE HAS TO SAY.

YOU'D DO WELL TO LISTEN TO...

IT WILL ALSO BE A CHANCE TO REPAIR THE ARMOR.

VERY WELL.

...

...THAT PRODUCED YOUR ARMOR, AS WELL AS SIR KNIGHT'S.

IT'S HIS EXPER-TISE...

FWAHHHH...

IS THAT ...?

G... GOOD LUCK...

MUNCH

MUNCH

YOU CAN DO IT, SCHIEPPE!

RELAX. AND ENVISION THE BROOM SWEEPING THE BARYTES AWAY.

THE FIRST THING ANY MAGIC USER WANTS TO DO IS TRY IT OUT.

I KNOW HOW SHE FEELS, SEEING EVERYONE FLYING.

LIKE YOU'RE A FLOWER PETAL ON THE WIND.

EMPTY OUT YOUR MIND.

TAKE IT EASY. NOT SERIOUS. NOT CAREFUL.

ZZZZ

C'MON. Y'GOTTA BE...

...MORE LIGHT AND AIRY

...OH!

...FEELS SORT OF... LIKE I'M FLOAT-ING...

HERE IT COMES.

TYPICALLY, THE FIRST TO FLY ARE ALWAYS THE CAREFREE, OR THOSE WHO GET EASILY CARRIED AWAY, AS BARYTES FIND THEM UNAPPROACHABLE. IT'S STILL ALL I CAN DO JUST TO FLOAT A FEW INCHES OFF THE GROUND...

RELAX YOUR SHOUL-DERS!

BUT SERIOUS, STRAIT-LACED KIDS AREN'T REALLY CUT OUT FOR THAT.

MORDA?

UH, WHAT?

HEY ...!

EGHHHH ...!

SO... ...AWAY WE GO!

KID-NAP-PER!

COME ON!

STOP DOING WHAT-EVER YOU PLEASE, MORDA ...!

...FASTER IF YOU JUST TAKE OFF FOR REAL.

YOU CAN GET THE HANG OF THIS SORT OF THING...

EH?

I CAN'T!
I CAN'T!
I CAAAN'T!
HEY, KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
TH--
THIS IS NOT THE SAME THING! IF I FALL, I'LL WIND UP DEAD!
WHAT'RE YOU SO SCARED OF *NOW*?
YOU'VE FLOWN AS A LUMINOUS BODY, HAVEN'T YOU?
LOOK.
OPEN
...!

THE WIND...
FLYING ON THE WIND HAS ITS OWN APPEAL.
AFTER ALL, IT'S HALFWAY LIKE A DREAM WHEN YOU'RE A LUMINOUS BODY.
SO, TIME FOR YOU TO SEE WHAT IT CAN *REALLY* FEEL LIKE.
IN FULL. ♡
EEP ...!
...FEELS NICE.
EEEEEEK!
シュパァァ〜…
SHAAAAAP

W--

WOW...

AHA HA HA...

WHENEVER THOSE PEDANTIC OLD MEN BORE ME TO SLEEP WITH THEIR LECTURES, I TEAR AWAY LIKE THIS.

NOT TO BRAG, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO BROOM HANDLING, I'M THE BEST ON THE ISLAND.

EVERYBODY HOLDING HANDS AND GETTING ALONG ISN'T MY CUP OF TEA.

MORE OR LESS.

YOU GIVE OFF A DIFFERENT VIBE THAN THE REST OF THE ISLAND'S MAGES, MORDA. A BIT ROGUE-ISH...

BUT LOOK AT THAT.

!

AND ALSO...

THAT'S...

...GUTS.

NO MATTER HOW BUBBLY AND FLORID THE ISLAND'S QUEEN IS, THERE ARE SOME WHO DON'T VIBE WITH THAT.

WHERE THE ISLAND'S STRAYS HANG OUT.

WHERE DOES THIS RAVINE LEAD?

INCIDENTALLY, MY MISTRESS IS AMONG THEM.

THEY PREFER SEMI-DARKNESS TO SUNSPOTS. LIKE THAT SPIRIT YOU SUMMONED EARLIER.

AND THERE'S THAT KNIGHT I'VE NEVER SEEN...

WHY'S YOUR COMPANION GOING WITH OLD MASTER GEDFRING TO A PLACE LIKE THAT?

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK.

HOW ABOUT IT? DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WONDER?

...
...
...

HYNN

IF ANYTHING, IT'S MORE LIKE QLIPHOTH...

...IT CERTAINLY IS DIFFERENT FROM ELFHELM UP ABOVE.

RIGHT. WICKER MEN!

THIS IS WHAT ATTACKED US...

!

...BUT LOOK. DOWN HERE, THEY'RE JUST GIANT ROTTEN SCARECROWS. YOU'VE GOT TO BREAK OUT THE OLD TOOLS NOW AND THEN.

I SUPPOSE IT WAS A DISASTER FOR *YOU* GUYS...

...CAPTURED ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE SACRIFICED, AND THESE WERE SENT INTO BATTLE.

THEY SAY LONG AGO, WHEN THIS LAND WAS ATTACKED BY A LARGE NATION ON THE CONTINENT...

AS PROVINCIAL AS CAN BE.

COMPARED TO THAT, THAT VILLAGE IS LIKE A PLAYGROUND.

WEREN'T MAGIC USERS ORIGINALLY SO FEARED AS WITCHES AND SORCERERS THAT PEOPLE HESITATED EVEN TO SPEAK OF THEM?

I'M NOT ALL BRATTY LIKE THAAAT.

SQUEEZE

GUH?

SHTOP. SHTOP.

WR- WR- WRONNNG!

ONE OF MY COMPANIONS IS THAT WAY.

MAAAN!

HUHHH?!

YOU HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY, IT'S CHAMPING AT THE BIT.

...OH!

IT'S YOU, MORDA.

MIS-TRESS!

OHHH...

....UM. WHO IS THIS?

MY MISTRESS, GRANNY VOL.

THE ISLAND'S HAD SOME VISITORS. I WELCOMED THEM.

YOU HAVEN'T COME BY AT ALL LATELY.

SORRY, SORRY.

GET TOO ANGRY, AND YOU'LL HAVE ANOTHER DIZZY SPELL.

SO, THAT'S WHY YOU TOOK OUT A WICKER MAN WITHOUT PERMISSION! HOW VEXING!

HA!

WHO YOU CALLING OLD?!

SHE'S A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF AN OLD WITCH WITH A BAD REPUTATION.

...AND THE ISLANDERS CALL HER "OLD LADY VOLVABA."

SHE'S AN EXPERT WITH CURSES AND NECROMANCY...

SORRY TO GREET YOU FROM ON HIGH.

MY NAME IS SCHIERKE.

I-- I'M THE APPRENTICE OF FLORA OF THE SPIRIT TREE FOREST, AND I CAME TO THIS ISLAND A FEW DAYS AGO.

YOU'RE FLORA'S, ARE YOU?

OHH...?

THEY WERE HEADED TOWARD THE FOREST OF STONE JUST NOW.

DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE OLD MASTER GEDFRING AND TWO KNIGHTS?

YOU'RE ACQUAINTED WITH MY MISTRESS ...?

WHERE THE DWARVES ARE.

THE FOREST OF STONE...

BLEAHH...

I-I JUST NERVOUS. SHE'S SO WITHDRAT-HAV!

WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE OF HER LOOKS SHE'S ACTU-ALLY PRETTY

...THAT NO-GOOD APPRENTICE. MAYBE I'LL CURSE HER WITH A TAIL OR SOMETHING. HOW VEXING.

BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HER ACCOMPANIED BY SOMEBODY.

OKAY THEN.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, MISTRESS.

HEY!

LATER, IF I FEEL LIKE IT.

CAN'T YOU HELP OUT WITH A MAGIC RITE NOW AND THEN?!

PARDON US.

THIS MEANS THE OLD MEN'S DREAMY NONSENSE IS FINALLY COMING TO PASS?

THEN, THERE'S THAT SKULL KNIGHT...

...STILL, THESE VISITORS ARE CONNECTED TO FLORA, OF ALL PEOPLE.

DWARVEN DWELLINGS ARE CRAMPED AND DARK.

AND THE DWARVES ARE UNREA-SONABLE AND STUB-BORN.

FROM HERE, WE WALK.

IT'S TOO THICK WITH BARYTES IN HERE.

FLYING GETS TOTALLY EXHAUST-ING.

WELL, THIS'LL TIRE ME OUT ANYWAY, SINCE I DON'T USUALLY USE MY LEGS.

...WOW.

THE STONE REALLY IS LIKE A FOREST...!

CLANNNG

CLANNNG

AH...

...THERE THEY ARE.

カアアアン

CLANNNG

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, HANARR.

...HERE, IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH?

WHAT DOES A MAGE WANT...

THE KING, EH?

HUH... HAVEN'T SEEN *THAT* FACE IN FOR-EVER.

!

...FRIEND.

THANKS TO YOU I'M IN GOOD HEALTH...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STILL NOT RESTIN' IN PEACE. THAT'S MY CRAFTSMANSHIP FOR YOU.

SAYS YOU, INSIDE A COFFIN.

HEH!

...GOOD HEALTH, HUH?

AND BOTH AT THE SAME TIME, TO BOOT.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO SEE *THIS* AGAIN.

AND THEN...

...HMPH.

THAT AIN'T MY STYLE.

...WHAT IT MEANS TO DON THIS BLACK ARMOR?

...COULD YOU GIVE THE YOUNGSTER A LECTURE ON...

HANARR, AS ITS CREATOR...

AHH, NO NEED FOR ALL THAT.

YOU'RE ITS OWNER NOW. HOWEVER...

...YEAH.

YOU HAVE MY THANKS.

I'VE SIDESTEPPED DEATH MANY TIMES, THANKS TO THIS.

BUT, YOUNG'UN. FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, YOU'VE BEEN USIN' THAT A HECK OF A LOT.

IN FACT, THAT THING'S LIABLE TO POSSESS ITS OWNER FOR THE SAKE OF CONSUMIN' HIM.

USING IT AIN'T NECESSARILY THE SAME AS MASTERIN' IT.

MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT A GO.

WHAP

...LET'S SEE.

CLANNNNG

RATTLE

RATTLE

ZHMMM

LUNGE

BERSERK

幻造世界〈ファンタジア〉篇／妖精島の章

幻死

DEATH VISION

KLAK

KLAK

AROOOOO

GUTS...!

WH-
WHAT IS
THAT?!

PIPE
DOWN.

CLOSH

CLANNNK

SHING

GREAT GURU!

SCHIERKE, MORDA. DIDN'T TAKE YOU LONG TO SKIP CLASS. MY, MY.

ゴロ

GROLLLL

ロ

ロ

ロ

WHAT IS THIS...?! WHAT DID YOU DO TO GUTS?!

THEY GOING TO TORTURE HIM?

AT THE BLOODY MEMORIES DYED INTO THIS ARMOR.

I FIGURED I'D GIVE HIM A LOOK.

WRAP

...CONSUMED THE LIFE OF ITS FORMER OWNER.

AT HOW THIS THING...

KONNNNG

ROHHHH

KSSH

KSSH

GUTS!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S ATTUNED TO THE MEMORIES.

KSSH

THAT'S SOME SERIOUS STRENGTH!

CHINNING

KRICK

IS IT ABOUT TIME?

...WHAT HAP-PENED?

HE JUST STOPPED, LIKE HIS CHAINS...UH, STRINGS... SNAPPED.

!

DASH

GRAB

GUTS ...!

YANK

YOU AWAKE NOW?

YOU'RE NOT HALF BAD!

ニュート

WHRLLL

THANKS, I OWE YOU ONE.

SCHIERKE.

...AH, THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS.

...IT END--

...I'M SURE...

...JUST NOW...

...

...WAS THE END OF A ONCE FOOLISH KING...

WHAT YOU JUST WITNESSED...

...AND THE BEGINNING OF A WRAITH WANDERING THROUGH AN ENDLESS NIGHT.

幻造世界〈ファンタジア〉篇 ＼ 妖精島の章

跳猿 LEAPING MONKEY

I'M SURE OF IT, THAT WAS...

...AN ECLIPSE.

...

...SAME AS ME...?

...IS HE THE...

WHAT'S THIS HOLLOW ...?

A MAUSO-LEUM.

AT THE ROOT OF THIS SPIRIT TREE...

...HIS MAJES-TY'S...

...SIR KNIGHT'S...

...FORMER LOVER LIES BURIED.

...TO VISIT THE GRAVE OF THE LADY MAIDEN OF THE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS?

ARE YOU HERE THIS TIME...

SIR KNIGHT?

DANANN IS THE VERY IMAGE OF THAT WOMAN ...!

THAT MOMENT I TOUCHED THE ARMOR, I SAW HER TOO.

SHE LOOKS LIKE HER...!

FWOOSH

FOREVER BOUND FOR ONE PLACE.

I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BASK IN THE AFTERGLOW OF BYGONE DAYS.

A RUIN OF LOVE AND HATE.

I AM A HARBINGER OF CALAMITY.

LEST WE INTRUDE.

NOW, LET US BE GOING.

...AND THAT SKULL KNIGHT?

EXACTLY WHAT SORT OF CONNECTION IS THERE BETWEEN MY MISTRESS...

...EXCUSE ME...

HM?

...GREAT GURU.

IN THOSE DAYS, THE TWO OF THEM WERE QUITE ATTACHED.

IN HER YOUTH, YOUR MISTRESS FLORA WAS ONE OF THE SORCERESSES WHO SERVED THE LADY MAIDEN.

AFTER THAT DISASTROUS DAY THE BLACK SUN SHONE UPON THE WORLD...

...BUT THOSE FEELINGS WERE TOO STRONG.

AND HENCE, SHE WAS BANISHED FROM THE VILLAGE, AND LEFT THE ISLAND.

...MY FRIEND FLORA VIOLATED A TABOO.

WHRLLL

GO HER!

A TABOO ...?

AHHHH! YOU KID-NAPPIN' DELIN-QUENT GIRL!

YOU TRYIN' TO TURN OUR SCHIERKE INTO A HOT RODDER?! WHAT HAPPENS IF SHE STARTS TALKIN' ABOUT TURBO BROOMS?!

IVALERA.

I FINALLY FOUND YOU!

SCHIERKE!

!

SCHIERKE, YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT THE MONKEY!

ISIDRO?

WAIT, THIS IS NO TIME FOR THAT!

BE BACK BY DINNER-TIME.

WHAT'S THIS? COULD BE INTEREST-ING.

UH...

HEY!

ANYWAY, JUST 'C'MON!

AT THIS RATE, THE VILLAGE IS DOOMED.

IT'S NOT AS IF ISIDRO'S EVER *NOT* UP TO SOME-THING...

SO... ...WHAT IN THE WORLD IS IT?

ガヤ・

CHATTER

ガヤ・

CHFF

THERE!

AUGHHH!

ガ!!

UNTIE ME!

TRMP TRMP TRMP

NOOO!

ぼっふ!
BOFF

UH-
AH-
AH-
A...

HE APPEARS!

BEHOLD MY SKILLS.

I CALL IT THE WITCH PUMPKIN BUNDLE.

YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO SHOW UP, SCHIEEER-KEEE.

...I'VE FINALLY COME UP WITH A NEW KILLER TECH-NIQUE.

NOW I'M GONNA TEST IT OUT ON YOU.

AFTER THAT LONG TRAINING JOURNEY AND MY CRASH COURSE ON THIS ISLAND...

...
...

I REPAY TWOFOLD VIOLENCE TO MEN AND HUMILIATION TO WOMEN.

JUST GETTING EVEN FOR THAT BEATING YOU GAVE ME. I'M A MAN WHO DOESN'T FORGET DISGRACE.

SCHIERKE, PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR COMPANION! WE CAME INTO THE FOREST TO GATHER MEDICINAL HERBS, AND HE SUDDENLY JUMPED US!

AHAHAHA

YOU'LL DANCE FOR ME, JUST LIKE THEM. ALL SILLY AND CLUMSY.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE REALLY PUT ME THROUGH THE WRINGER.

FALLEN TO THE DARK SIDE YOU HAVE.

AGAIN WITH THE IMMATU-RITY! YOU TRULY NEVER LEARN.

SHE'LL GETCHA LIKE SHE ALWAYS DOES!

RIGHT!

OHHH!

JOIN FORCES AGAINST HIM!

WE WON'T GIVE IN TO A SAVAGE LIKE YOU!

WHAP

WHAP

ぴと

ぴと

BYAH!

OHKAS AWAY!

SHOOM

TAKE THIS!

I'LL BLOCK THOSE DANGEROUS MOUTHS OF YOURS!

NOPE!

ぱし

SNAG

ELF SHOT !!

SHOOM

...FOL-LOWED BYYY...

BOING

CHFF

GRAB

むんず

DYNAM-IC!

TUG

きゅっ

GRAB

AAAND

SPRING

きゅっ

TUG

MEFFF!

LEAP

むんず

EEEK!

STYLISH TIE-OFF!

FLIP
LEAP
TNK
TAHH!
YOU!
YOU!
CHFF
LIMIT-LESS POWER!
LET US RULE THIS ISLAND TOGETHER WITH THAT POWER, PADAWAN.
YOU SEE THAT?!
SUPER THREE-DIMEN-SIONAL ATTACK!!
IN THIS NUTTY FOREST WHERE I WEIGH LESS, NOBODY'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH ME!
H-- HE'S QUICK...!
LIKE SOME BEAST!
HEH
HEH
HEH
COME ON... I MEAN...
HEY, BOYS! DON'T JUST STAND THERE WATCHING, HELP OUT A LITTLE!
SEX FIEND!
FOE OF WOMEN!
YOU MONKEY!
HE'S TOO WELL SUITED TO THIS FOREST! WE CAN'T CONTROL HIM!
SMIRK
TUG
TUG
WHAP
MORDA! YOU NEED TO HELP TOOOO!
AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
OOK
OOK
OOK
EEEK
EEEK
NOW NOBODY CAN STOP HIM!

OF COURSE, WHAT YOU'LL BE EXPOSIN' IS THAT KIDDIE PUMPKIN UNDER-WEAR.

ヒヤ..ヒヤ..ヒヤ..
NYUK NYUK NYUK..

I'M GONNA GET TO WATCH YOU SCREAM AND BAWL.

MY PADAWAN IS A MASTER-CLASS PUNK.

WHAT A DELIGHTFUL-LY VULGAR FACE.

THE ONLY ONE LEFT IS YOU, SCHIERKE.

NOWWW THEN.

GRRR...

DO SOME-THING!

I'LL ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GETTING RID OF YOU!

SHE'LL SCARE YOU SO BAD, YOU'LL NEVER EVEN *THINK* OF DEFYIN' HER *AGAIN!*

AS YOUR TRAVELING COMPANION, I'LL BROOK NO FURTHER WRONGDOING!

FINE, THEN.

GOT-CHA!

A MONKEY TO THE END!

SHLLLF

I-IZZAT SO? IT'S JUST MY WILD NATURE...

YOU'RE SO FLAGRANT THAT I HAVE TO RESPECT IT!

OH, WOW! YOU'RE A RIOT!

CAN'T TEAR HIS EYES AWAY.

EHEHE

MUST BE THE BOOBS.

BOOBS, HUH?

YESSS. IF THE GIRLS DOWN THERE HAD SIMILAR BOOBS, THEY'D HAVE TROUNCED HIM.

ぴょん WHAP

WOOP! THINK AGAIN!

HE DODGED?! OHHHH, THAT SMARTY-PANTS!

HOP

I WON'T FALL FOR THAT OLD TRICK!

TODAY I'M AN OUTLAW!

YOU'RE WAY TOO SLOW...

...TO SEE THROUGH MY AFTER-IMAGES!

HEY HEY HEY HEY!

"DESPICABLE" WORKS FOR ME!!!

SCHIERKE, BEHIND YOU!

KH...! SO QUICK! HIS MOVEMENTS AND PERSONALITY HAVE BECOME INHUMAN!

RAGHHH! QUIT MOVIN' AROUND!

RAHHHHHHHH

HYNN

SHLOP

GOLP

AH

SHMM

LET ME JOIN IN TOO!

ONE OF US.

YOU GUYS PLAYING TAG? LOOKS LIKE FUN!

ビク!

TWITCH

ビク!

TWITCH

HORRRRL

SHOO! SHOO!

GO AWAY!

BOYS!

I WAS SWIMMING, AND I'M AN ELF. IT'S NORMAL.

AND, CLOTHES ...! YOU'RE NAKED!

WE JUST BECAME FRIENDS.

HEY YOU! THAT'S... A KELPIE?! IT'S DANGEROUS!

ゴキュ

GLUK

SINCE HE'S ALREADY IN THERE, SUCK ON 'IM 'TIL HE LOSES HIS FLAVOR.

HORRRL

ボヮ...

PTOO. SPIT HIM OUT.

THAT ONE'S A FRIEND, SO DON'T EAT HIM.

BLECH

ベロ

レロ

LINE UP! WE'LL TAKE TURNS, FIVE AT A TIME!

THIS WAY.

...

ONE-TWO!

ONE-TWO!

I GUESS THERE'S NO ESCAPIN' FATE.

ONE-TWO!

OKAY, MATCH YOUR RHYTHM!

CRACK

WHACK!

BOK

バドスボ

キカカカ

SMACK

ズル

GRIND

WE'LL TAKE BEST OF FIVE, NOW, K?

LIKE I SAID, WE'RE FRIENDS!

Y-YOU EMPLOYED A KELPIE... THAT'S INCREDIBLE, ISMA.

HEY, MORDA! WHERE'D YOU FLY OFF TO WITH SCHIERKE?!

WELL, YOU KNOW.

I'M GLAD *YOU* MADE SO MANY WITCH FRIENDS, SCHIERKE.

YES...

Y--

GO ON, MARCH!

...WHERE THEY ACCEPT ME THE WAY I AM.

SUNSHINE AT THE END OF OUR JOURNEY...

...FOR US MAGIC USERS.

...THIS IS A PARADISE...

...WHY DID MY MISTRESS LEAVE THIS ISLAND?

...IN THAT CASE...

BUT...

...DID SHE VIOLATE...?

WHAT TABOO...

エ"MEH-
エ EH-
EH

YOU AND SIR KNIGHT SEEM TO BE WELL ACQUAINT-ED.

...BUT HE'S A BAD-LUCK SKELETON WHO POPS UP WHEREVER I'M HEADED AND SPOUTS OFF LIKE SOME KIND OF PROPHET.

WELL, I DO OWE HIM A FEW...

IT AIN'T LIKE THAT.

HE IS NOT OF THIS WORLD.

HIS STATE OF MIND DIFFERS FROM THAT OF PEOPLE.

...ARE PUSHING HIM ONWARD.

ONLY DEEP LOVE AND HATE AND ENDLESS FURY...

...IS THAT HE SEES IN YOU A REMINDER OF HOW HE ONCE WAS.

PERHAPS THE REASON HE PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO YOU AT ALL...

I CAN'T TELL WHETHER HE'S DEAD OR ALIVE-- HE HAS NO RIGHT TO CRITICIZE ME.

WHILE I APPRECIATE THE ADVICE, *TENACITY* IS MY STRONG SUIT.

...WHETHER YOUR FURY WILL BREATHE LIFE INTO YOU OR CONSUME YOU LIKE HELLFIRE.

ALL THE MORE REASON TO DISCERN AT THE VERGE OF DEATH...

...
...
...

CLENCH

VNN

...BUT ON THIS BREEZY ISLAND, I'VE GOT NOTHIN' TO DO BUT TAKE NAPS AND SWING THIS AROUND.

DISCERN? VERGE OF DEATH? THAT'S ALL DANDY...

...TCH!

WHSSSS

BERSERK

幻造世界〈ファンタジア〉篇／妖精島の章

朝露の涙

TEARS OF MORNING DEW

HOW COME YOU'RE HERE...?

YOU...

TMP TMP TMP

TMP

...HEY.

SKNK

SKNK

GRAB

WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO EAT--

GUTS?

GREEE!

ギィィ

WHERE DID HE...

!

FOUND HIM OUT THERE.

OH!

WE SAW YOU AT MY ISLAND! DID YOU SWIM HERE?

HE APPEARS!

OHHH! STILL ALIVE, SHORTY?

YOU "FOUND" HIM...?

...
...

MAYBE HE WAS STOWED AWAY?

...THEN HE MUST REALLY BE...

IF HE'S HERE ON THIS ISLAND...

YOU TOOK ON THAT FORM AND SHOWED UP WHERE WE WENT TO WATCH OVER US ON OUR JOURNEY.

YOU MUST BE THE FLOWER STORM MONARCH... DANANN.

OH RIGHT, YOU WERE TALKIN' ABOUT THAT.

OH YEAH? REALLY?

WHAT WOULD *YOU* KNOW, YA LAYMAN?!

IS THAT TRUE?

YES.

WHO IS THIS?

OH, HOW ADORABLE. ♡

WHOM DO YOU MEAN BY "GRANNY"?

I BROUGHT YOU A FRESHLY BAKED PUMPKIN PIE.

I UNDERSTAND YA WANTIN' TO MINGLE WITH THE YOUNGSTERS. BUT YA CAN GO TOO FAR IN MAKIN' YOURSELF LOOK YOUNG, GRANNY. YOU'RE EMBARRASSIN' YOUR RELATIVE, HERE.

HUH?

YOU LOOKED PRETTY SMUG ON THE SHIP *TOO*, WHEN YOU GAVE THAT OPINION OF YOURS.

LIL' SCHIERKE'S AT THE AGE WHERE SHE LIKES TO SHOW OFF. ♡

PAT PAT

YOU GOT IT WRONG.

IT'S OKAY, SCHIER-KE!

HE ISN'T FROM THIS ISLAND.

UH... DON'T YOU KNOW THIS BOY, DANANN?

YOINK

ヒョイ

...DO ME A FAVOR.

IS THIS PAYBACK FOR EARLIER?! SO PETTY! YOU TWO DIMWITS FAIL AT SHO'WIN' OFF ALL THE TIME!

ALL THE DIMWITS ♪ ARE SHOWIN' OFF...

ﾁﾗ

ﾁﾗ

GLANCE

...SO HE CAN GO SEE CASCA.

TAKE HIM UPSTAIRS...

...ALL RIGHT.

GCHAK

ガチャ

TMP

TMP

BOFF

YOU REMEMBER HIM, CASCA?!

WHAT'RE YOU... DOING HERE?

THIS BOY WHO SHOWS UP ON NIGHTS WITH A FULL MOON.

YES... I REMEMBER.

AS USUAL, HE STICKS TO CASCA LIKE GLUE.

FULL MOON?

YES.

I WAS... CONVINCED THAT THE ELF RULER... THAT IT WAS YOU, VISITING IN HIS FORM IN ORDER TO EVALUATE US...

DURING OUR JOURNEY, HE'D SUDDENLY APPEAR BEFORE US ON SUCH NIGHTS, THEN DISAPPEAR COME MORNING.

...SO, THIS BOY IS THE ONE.

I DID ALSO HEAR ABOUT THE EVENTS DURING THE FULL MOONS.

IT'S NO WONDER YOU HAD THE WRONG IDEA. THAT BOY IS NO MERE CHILD OF MAN. THE OD OF INNOCENCE SURROUNDING HIM IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF US ELVES.

BY MY MISTRESS ...?

IT'S TRUE THAT I WAS INFORMED REGARDING YOUR JOURNEY, BUT THAT WAS BY WAY OF YOUR TEACHER FLORA'S DREAM ORACLES.

HE ARRIVED HERE BECAUSE THE ISLAND'S AFFINITY GUIDED HIM.

THE FACT THAT HE WAS ABLE TO REACH THIS ISLAND?

THAT'S PROOF OF NO ILL INTENT.

IN THIS CASE, THE THREE OF YOU, SCHIERKE, FARNESE, AND CASCA.

...THE ISLAND'S AFFINITY...?

AND WHEN I SAY "ISLAND," THAT INCLUDES ITS INHABITANTS.

US...?

THUS, YOU THREE WERE ABLE TO BECOME INHABITANTS OF A SORT HERE.

AND CASCA WORE ELVEN HUNTING GARB.

YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY A MAGIC USER.

ABOVE ALL, EVERYONE ACCEPTS THE THREE OF YOU.

FARNESE WORE MY OLD CLOTHES.

...BEEN ACCEPTED...

WE'VE...

HE SEEMS TO HAVE ESPECIALLY STRONG TIES WITH CASCA.

AND SO, YOUR BOND WITH THIS CHILD LED HIM HERE.

WAHHH... I'M BEIN' SLURPED... THIS FEELS KINDA FAMILIAR...

SLRRRP

GRAB

...AND HIM.

GOOD MORNING.

...!

MORNING.

WHAT GIVES? IT'S MORNING, AND YOU DIDN'T VANISH THIS TIME.

...IN-DEED.

OH!

THAT WAS A GOOD MORNING WORK-OUT...

FOR A FEW DAYS HERE AT LEAST, IT'LL STILL BE THE NIGHT OF A FULL MOON IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD. MAYBE HE'LL GET TO BE WITH YOU FOR A WHILE.

HERE YOU GO, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD.

WELL, TIME FLOWS SORT OF UNIQUELY HERE ON THE ISLAND.

...YOU'RE PRACTI-CALLY THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD CARE-TAKER.

YEAH...

ISN'T THAT GREAT, CASCA?

MMM...
SUCH AN ORDINARY CHILD.
THE ELVES AREN'T WARY EITHER. SEE HOW THEY TAKE TO HIM.
FOR NOW, LET'S KEEP A CLOSE WATCH.
WHO KNOWS WHAT HIS STORY IS-- BUT I CAN'T SENSE EVEN AN OUNCE OF MALICE FROM THE CHILD.

...YES.

HOW PEACEFUL.

...WILL HELP HEAL THE WOUND IN CASCA'S HEART.

I'M SURE BEING WITH HIM...

...WE ALREADY SEEM LIKE ONE BIG FAMILY.

...WITH ALL OF US LIVING UNDER THE SAME ROOF LIKE THIS...

FOR THAT MATTER...

LIKE AN ACTUAL MOTHER AND CHILD...

IT WAS TRUE BEFORE, TOO, BUT THOSE TWO FIT SO WELL TOGETHER.

BUT...

...A FAMILY.

VASH

SHAAAA

BLOOSH

HYNN

...I STILL CAN'T MANAGE WITHOUT THIS.

I GUESS...

RUMMAGE

YOU...

UH...

...HEY!

SNIFF

WHAT, YOU THINK YOU'RE A KNIGHT?

HERE.

ゴッ

WHUMP

...

...

...

WHAP

WHEP

HOH.

HOH.

SHAAAA

RUFF

RUFF

...WHAT IS IT WITH YOU, ANYWAY?

SHAK

HEYYY!

SHORTYYY!

IT'S SNACK TIME! COME ON OUT!

ポン!

PAT

GO SPEND TIME WITH HER.

...FEELS COMPLETELY NATURAL.

BEING LIKE THIS...

THAT MOONLIT BEACH, WHERE I FIRST MET HIM.

...NO, I KNEW HIM FROM EVEN BEFORE THAT, AS ELAINE.

AFFEC-TION.

SAD-NESS.

...I REMEMBER THE SENSE OF NOSTALGIA THEN.

...BUT...

...FROM WHERE ...?

...

...

GCHAK

ガチャ

CASCA?

TMP

TMP

I WAS DREAMING.

...I'D BECOME A SMALL CHILD AND FIND MYSELF EMBRACED BY NOSTALGIC WARMTH.

ON NIGHTS OF THE FULL MOON...

BUT...

...WHEN I WAKE FROM THE DREAM...

...ALL THAT REMAINS IS A FAINT SENSE OF LONELINESS.

...THAT, TOO, SOON FADES AWAY.

ALONG WITH A SINGLE TEAR.

LIKE MORNING DEW.

KENTARO MIURA

1966-2021

Thank you so much for enjoying *Berserk*, and for giving it your ongoing support. "Tears of Morning Dew," the final installment printed in Volume 41, is the last manuscript that Kentaro Miura personally inked before his death. The members of Studio Gaga, who for many years have created *Berserk* alongside Mr. Miura, worked to their utmost to complete that manuscript, resulting in the publication of this manga volume.

With so many pieces of information still pending, we are grateful to you for waiting for so long. As for what will become of the manga from here, we apologize that as of now this is still yet to be decided.

As we consider what to do moving forward, we feel a keen sense of just how outsized for us this story of *Berserk* that Mr. Miura spent over thirty years producing is. Much like Guts' sword, in that respect. We at *Young Animal* have had a hand in producing *Berserk* over the years, and if there's one thing we can say, it's that as we move forward, we will always take into account first and foremost what Mr. Miura would have thought.

Finally, to all domestic and international fans, we've read with gratitude all the letters and such you've sent. We'd like to thank you once again for all your enduring and profound love.

Young Animal Editorial Department
December 2021

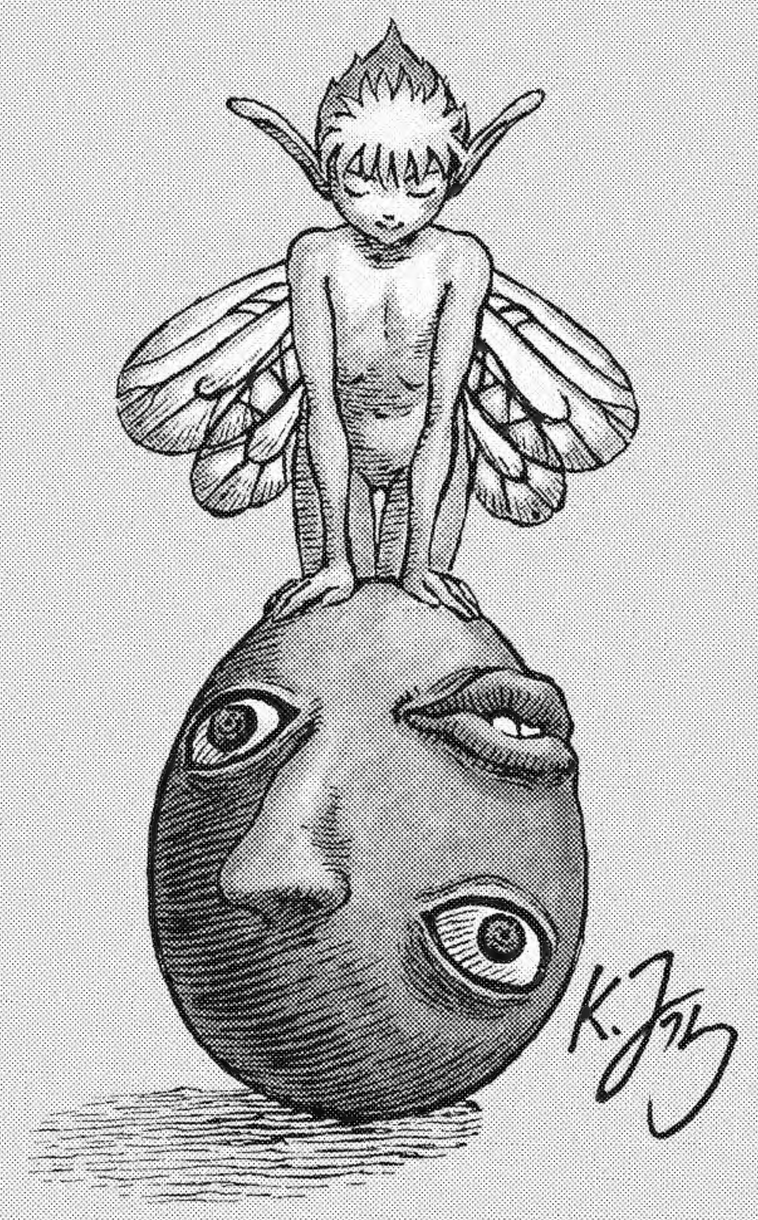
TO ALL FANS . . .

BERSERK 41

STORY & ART
KENTARO MIURA

STAFF
KUROSAKI
AKIO MIYAJI
NOBUHIRO HIRAI
NAOHIDE NAGASHIMA
SHIGERU KINOSHITA
HIDEAKI SUGIMOTO

with
STUDIO GAGA



COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / MANGA / HORROR

BERSERK

KENTARO MIURA 41

ベルセルク 三浦建太郎

Though Casca has at last been released from the prison of her own mind, she cannot escape the reminders of the terrors she has experienced. And nothing triggers the return of these harrowing memories more than Guts the Black Swordsman, who faced those same horrors in his relentless quest to bring Casca to a place where she might be healed. But the reappearance of a strange, mute boy could well be the key to bringing peace to Casca's troubled soul.

The world of manga was devastated by the May 2021 death of *Berserk* creator Kentaro Miura, but Miura-*sensei* left behind one final volume to cap his thirty-plus-year commitment to his signature vision. While Miura's epic remains unfinished, *Berserk* Volume 41 is a fitting curtain call, filled with joy, sadness, laughter, and keen imagination.

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

"One of the best manga ever conceived."
—University of North Georgia Press

DARK HORSE MANGA

FOR READERS 18+
FOR MATURE READERS